342 briefly, as formulated approximately as follows by Prof. H. Naumann in his Deutsche Volkskunde: "Ur" Europe was familiar with two forms of houses, the circular stone construction in the southern and central regions and the wood construction in the north and east. Both forms were conditioned by the material. The larger forests of the east supplied the building material, just as did the stony soil of the southern European regions, which were poor in forests. "The wooden house still reaches directly into the forest; the stone house bears witness of a glaring sun, from which it offers better protection. The right-angled wooden house was erected principally with the purpose of enclosing the hearth in a protected space and
• 343 creating a place of warmth." (1) Thus the hearth

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1. Hans Naumann, Grundzüge der deutschen Volkskunde, 2nd ed. (1929), pp. 28-29.

or smoke house is the oldest type of wooden house. It was necessarily developed into a house with an entrance hall. Since the smoke drew off only incompletely through the roof, it was found necessary to construct an entrance hall in which air could be obtained.

If, to be sure, Dlugosz still describes the Samogitian house in the year 1413 as a smoke house, in which men and cattle lived together, this representation is obviously biased, for the few older so-called "inventories" already mention all the buildings of the present Lithuanian farm, together with their own Lithuanian designations, although the "inventories" were written in the White Russian or Polish languages. Where under particularly miserable conditions men and cattle lived together under one roof, the stable was in any case /103/ separated by a partition from the human lodgings. Also the existence of the pirtis, the Lithuanian steam bath, has, in contrast to

•343 White Russia, has been confirmed as early as the sixteenth century as a special structure within the framework of the Lithuanian farmhouse. (2)

[113] 2. P. Galaunė, Lietuvių liaudies menas, jo meninių formų plėtojimosi pagrindai, Hum. Mok. fakulteto leidinys (Lithuanian Folk Art, the Foundations of the Development of its Artistic Forms, Publication of the Humanities Faculty) (Kaunas, 1930), pp. 33-38.

342 In contrast to frame construction the Lithuanian farm knows only the joining of logs, which was made possible by the abundance of wood in the country. The roof consists usually of straw, less often of shingles. The walls are put together of long beams in the familiar manner of wooden miter construction /Schurzholzbau/ (Gehrsassbau)/. The partitions are made in exactly the same way. Doors and windows are made by cutting out pieces of the logs and mortising the pieces to jambs attached to the sides of the window. "This is the form which occurs everywhere in log construction; it results from the nature of wood." (3)

[113] 3. Cornelius Gurlitt, "Alt-litauisches Bauwesen," Der Tag, Berlin, September 8, 1918.

The rural farm typical of Lithuania today is grouped around a courtyard in various separate buildings. The stable lies at right angles to the dwelling, the large barn opposite the dwelling, and on the fourth side of the rectangle is the klėtis, the storeroom of the farmer in which he preserves his best possessions and in which also a sleeping room is located. Its windows are unusually small for security. In front of the entrance is a porch supported by columns and usually

342 beautifully decorated, to which several steps lead up. (4)

[113] 4. Cf. on this point also Dr. Dethlefsen, Führer durch das Ostpreussische Heimatmuseum (1913), p. 12.

We must dwell a little on this most noteworthy building of the Lithuanian farm, for we have here apparently the primitive type of the Lithuanian house, of which Caspar Hennenberger already reports, in 1595, in his description of the Lithuanians living on Prussian soil: "The house within which they all eat is called the black house / and is in truth black enough from
343 smoke and soot. In addition every married couple has a separate little house / that is called a kleidt (klēte) / constructed of round logs / below it has something like a low little cellar/ on top a sort of chamber without windows/ only one door/ where they /104/ go in /. . ." (5) The

[113] 5. Quoted according to Dr. Hans Mortensen, Litauen, Grundzüge einer Landeskinde (Hamburg, 1926), p. 97.

present-day klētis, which in its simplest form contains only a small quadrangle space, sometimes square, sometimes rectangular, carries a straw roof whose ridge runs parallel to the long axis, but at times it runs perpendicular to it and then makes the roof surfaces slope to the front and rear instead of to right and left. "Thus this strange granary has the unmistakable plan of a little ancient Greek temple of the earliest period." (6)

[113] 6. Hans Naumann, "Vom litauischen Bauernhaus," Das neue Litauen, Vol. 2 (1918), Nos. 1/2, pp. 98, 99, 106.

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The development then probably proceeded in such a way that, with increased requirements, out of the forms of the old klētis the dwelling house was developed, while the klētis itself obtained its present designation. On the basis of the Samogitian numas (house) described by Tumas, Galaunē shows that the Lithuanian farmhouse, as it later developed, contains within it all the elements of construction of the old klētis, (7) and

7. P. Galaunē, op. cit., pp. 46-50.

Pfor. Naumann also points to this connection when he writes: "If we separate the right and left wings of the farmhouse from the middle section and nothing but the latter is left, do we not then obtain exactly our granary, that prototype of a simple little ancient Greek temple? May we have here perhaps a relationship reaching into the southeast of Europe? Does it not appear as if we have before us the primitive eastern European house, which here became a granary, there a temple, when there was need for expanded facilities?"(8)

8. Hans Naumann, Vom litauischen Bauernhaus, op. cit., p. 106.

A description of the interior organization of the Lithuanian dwelling lies outside the scope of this presentation. In connection with Naumann's propositions we may only refer to the three-part structure of the Lithuanian farmhouse, constantly repeated in various forms, as well as its typical front section of columns. Although the latter is not found everywhere, the farmhouse has been taken over in this form into the cities, where often enough it has found its imitation in stone. (9)

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9. For the Lithuanian farmhouse cf. further: Baurat Richard Dethlefsen, Bauernhäuser und

10; Baltrusaitis R-4, 5 (no date)1948 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

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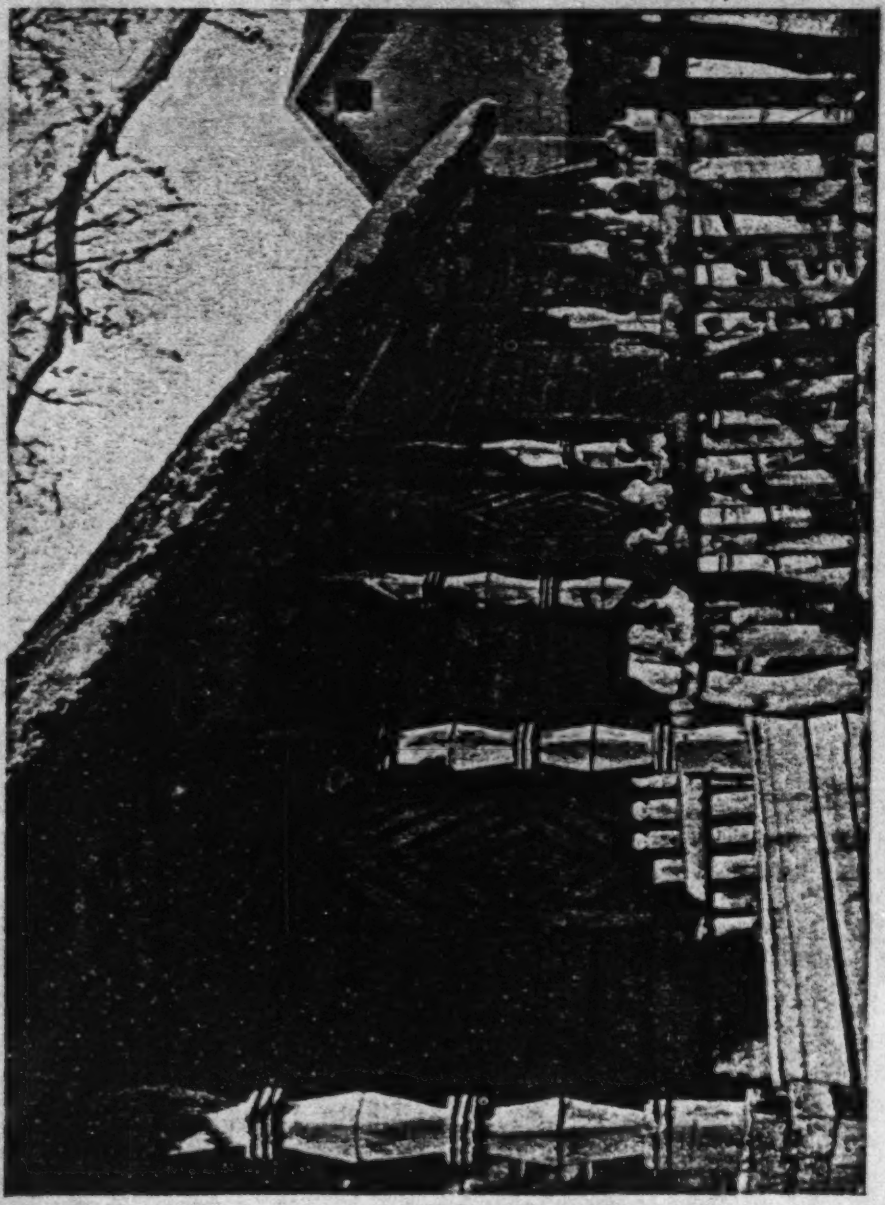

I. "Klėtis", Storehouse
District of Biržai

11: League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

The farm consists of the following separate buildings: the farm-house, a byre or stable, a barn, a loft, a bath-house (at some distance from the house), and a cellar, with a small orchard, a kitchen-garden and a little flower-garden. 342 343

The house, usually of wood, includes a large kitchen, which is also the living-room (grįčia), a large guest-room (seklyčia), one or two small bedrooms, a storeroom, a hall (with one room on either side), and a porch. In the loft (where grain, flour, etc., are stored), one or two bedrooms are often fitted up during the summer. In some districts, a special kitchen is constructed for the summer.

The rooms are about 3 metres high; the air circulates freely through the windows and wooden partitions. The inner walls are whitewashed and the floor is generally of boards. The house is warmed by means of stoves, which are often unpractical, particularly in the older houses.

Nearly every farm has a well, which is kept covered for sanitary reasons.

The privies are generally of a primitive kind, situated at a fair distance from the house.

The animals are kept in byres or stables at some distance from the house, with portions divided off for the smaller farmyard animals; the latter are occasionally housed separately.

A special loft is used to store grain, flour, etc. Cereals and forage are kept in a separate barn, while vegetables and other particularly perishable products are stored in a separate cellar, or in a special cellar under the house.

The farm-houses and out-buildings do as yet not compare with those of farmers in Western Europe. Under the former Russian Government, agriculture remained at a standstill, and rural recovery was precluded. During the war, all the farmers' savings disappeared, and a large number of farms — some 16,000 — were destroyed. These had to be rebuilt, while many new buildings were required in connection with the agrarian reform, thereby adding to the difficulties of rural administration. The development of agriculture and the improvement in rural standards of living make it a matter of urgent necessity that buildings better adapted to the farmers' needs should be erected without delay.

The Government and the agricultural organisations are taking energetic measures to improve rural building: Active propaganda is carried on, farmers are taught how to plan their buildings, so that they may be put to better use, grants are made for the erection of model buildings, prizes are awarded for farms run on rational lines, etc. Quite recently, at the instance of the Government in collaboration with the Chamber of Agriculture, the Lithuanian Society of Engineers and Architects and other institutions and organisations, a long-term plan

11:League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

342 was framed to encourage the use of brick and stone for building
343 purposes, as Lithuania is not rich in timber. The plan includes the erection of stone houses for farmers and agricultural labourers and stables and byres, and provision is made for long-term credits to be granted to farmers for the purpose, at reduced rates. Care will be taken, when the plan is carried out, to see that the buildings are rationally constructed, in accordance with economic and sanitary requirements; aesthetic considerations will also be borne in mind.

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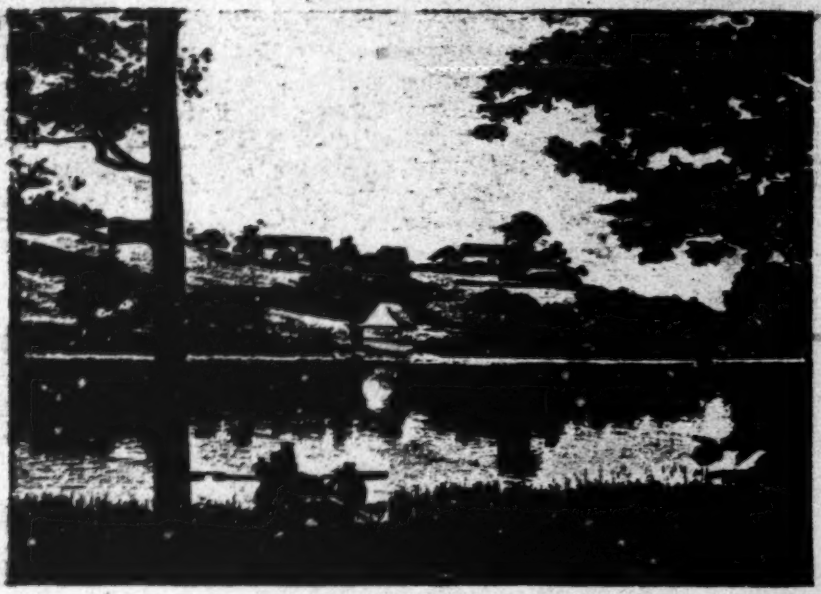

Lithuanian landscape.

Lithuanian RB5

181 They are industrious, peace-loving, and
unassuming people, described by ancient chroniclers as "rough but pious."
Since time immemorial and ever spiritually attuned to nature, they
have built their entire culture upon a natural basis. Like the Letts, who
are related to them, they live to a great extent in a "wood age" which
is very ancient but for that reason no less many-sided, skillful, and
342 sensible. The houses are made of wood; their foundation beams rest on
the bare soil or on field boulders. The roof at one time probably con-
sisted of spruce bark, as the covering sheets for the peat still do today;
but now the roof is made of straw which is held on to the ridge by ridge rid
In front of the door there is usually placed a narrow porch with a gabled
roof and with little benches to the right and to the left. Formerly the
houses had only one room, smoking-room style, but now they usually
have a tripartite division with entrance hall in the middle, and living
room and bedroom to the right and the left of it. The floor consists of
352 a loam coating or of boarding. The furniture consists of wall benches,
loose benches, well-carved solid chairs, a table, wall boards, and pine-
353 wood splinter holders; on the walls are hung pictures of saints, fre-
quently portraits of the old Lithuanian rulers, and, symptomatic for the
● 343 great amount of emigration, photographs from America. Aside from
the living quarters, granaries (klete), barns, stables, wells, and bath
515 house belong to the Lithuanian farmstead. In the bath house they bathe
in steam which rises from heated stones on which the water is poured.
This, incidentally, is also the way the Indians do it. The bather lies
on a bench and cools and massages himself at the same time by means
412 of a cluster of birch twigs which he dips in fresh water. The hand-
operated mill is a very ancient instrument. It has one stationary and
[231] one turning stone in a wooden box. Likewise ancient is the beehive
made of a hollow tree stem--bee keeping is the most original native
and the most highly developed form of the collecting economy, which is
here, as among the Letts, universally practiced and skillfully cultivated--;
ancient, too, is the zoche, the plow with the forked share, which, as
late as the 16th century, was made entirely of wood, and which even
today is completely wooden except for the iron shoe; just like the har-
rows with branches tied to them, and the snowshoes made of hollowed-
534 out oak boards tied under the foot. Ancient, also, are the musical in-
struments: the nine-stringed kanklys, the truba made of a birch branch
cut lengthwise, hollowed out, and tied together again; the short reed
pipe, the trapezoid shaped cymbal, the stringed zither made of an osier
switch, played with a bow fashioned in the same way; with a resonator